

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY **Bulgaria** REPORT 25X1

SUBJECT **Bezmer Airfield** (jets, runway, barracks, fuel supply & sketch of layout) DATE DISTR. 29 August 1958

NO. PAGES 3

REFERENCES 25X1

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. A Jet Fighter Regiment, subordinate to the Jet Fighter Division in Yambol, is stationed at Bezmer airfield which is located two and one-half kilometers south of Bezmer village, between Bezmer and Bolyarsko villages, Yambol Okoliya. The airfield is visible from the Sofia-Burgas railroad, the tracks of which are approximately 600 meters distant from and parallel to the northern side of the field.
 2. There are no fences around the field which covers an area two and one-half by two kilometers square and is surrounded by arable land. The airfield was constructed by Trudovaks at the same time as Uzundzhovo and Ravnets airfields in 1952 and 1953. Full use of the field began in 1954.
- Runway and Parking Platforms
3. The runway has a concrete surface and is approximately 1,500 meters long and 80 to 100 meters wide, running in an almost east to west direction, parallel to the Sofia-Burgas railroad tracks. On the north side of the concrete runway there is an auxiliary runway. The airfield has the necessary facilities for night operations and Source heard that there were jet flights at night from the field.
 4. On the north side of the west end of the runway there are the following concrete parking platforms for jets, which are listed in the order of their location from west to east:
 - a. Platform for the pair of duty jets which are on the alert for immediate take-off.
 - b. Approximately two platforms, each surrounded by an embankment of earth and having a capacity for five to six jets.
 - c. Approximately three platforms, not surrounded by embankments.

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Jets

5. The first jets were sent to Bezmer airfield in the fall of 1953 and in June 1958 there were 30 to 35 jets which are FAGOT's and FRESCO's. There are no hangars on the field and the jets are kept on the parking platforms described above.
6. There are always a pair of jets on duty which are ready for immediate take-off in case of emergency and these are parked on a special platform at the northwest corner of the runway, as described in para 5 above. In addition to the duty jets there are usually 25 other jets which are always prepared for action and the remainder of the jets can take-off 30 minutes after alert.
7. In 1956 a special order declared that all planes in the open should be dispersed 60 to 100 feet apart as a precaution against destruction during air raids.

Headquarters, Jet Fighter Regiment

8. The strength of the Jet Fighter Regiment at Bezmer airfield, including its Supply Battalion, is approximately 150 officers, 50 non-commissioned officers and 200 enlisted men. Of the 150 officers, 30 to 40 are jet pilots and they live in apartment houses in Bezmer village. The rest of the staff lives in either Bezmer village or Yambol.
9. [redacted] buildings occupied by the regiment on the field [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] all of which are on the north side of the eastern end 25X1
of the runway and connected with Bezmer village by a gravel road:
 - a. Warehouse; one-story, brick building, six by ten meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof. [redacted] 25X1
 - b. Regimental headquarters building; two-story, L-shaped, brick building, 15 by 20 by eight meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof.
 - c. Building with mess hall and kitchen; one-story, brick building, 12 by six meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof.
 - d. Barracks for soldiers; two-story, brick building, 12 by six meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof.
 - e. Headquarters of the Supply Battalion; two-story, brick building, 12 by six meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof.
 - f. Warehouse; one-story brick building, 12 by six meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof. [redacted] 25X1
 - g. Four to five apartment houses for airfield personnel; two-story brick buildings.

Fuel Supply Depot

10. The fuel depot of the airfield in 1954 consisted of an unknown number of gasoline drums stored in the open in an area, 300 feet square, surrounded by a barbed wire fence. The depot area is on the north side of the eastern end of the runway and approximately 600 feet from the runway. 25X1
11. [redacted] since 1954 underground fuel tanks have been 25X1
constructed at the field [redacted] In June
1958 fuel for jets was transported from Bezmer railroad station, 600
to 700 meters from the airfield, by five to six ZIS-150 tank trucks
belonging to the field.

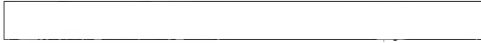
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legend attached.

attachment to this report is a sketch with a

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ATTACHMENT

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LEGEND TO THE SKETCH OF BEZMER AIRFIELD

1. Sofia-Burgas railroad.
2. Bermer railroad station.
3. Gravel road from Bezmer village to the airfield.
Note: There is another gravel road connecting Bezmer village with Yambol, which is not shown on the sketch.
4. Bezmer village; there is about one mile between the village and the railroad shown on the sketch.
5. Runway.
6. Concrete platform for the two jets "on duty."
7. Concrete parking spaces for the jets, surrounded with embankment of earth. On the sketch there are shown only two, but there might be more. Each one has enough space for five to six jets.
8. Concrete parking spaces for the jets without earth embankment. On the sketch are shown only three, but there might be more.
9. Open air POL with undetermined number of barrels; guarded by a sentry.
10. Storage of undetermined equipment; one-story brick building with red tile roof and white washed walls. 6x10 meters.
11. H.Q.; two-story brick building, L shaped: 15x20x8 meters with white washed walls and red tile roof.
12. Dining mess and kitchen; one-story brick building with white washed walls and red tile roof. 12x6 meters.
13. Soldiers' dormitory; two-story brick building with white washed walls and red tile roof. 12x6 meters.
14. H.Q. and offices of the Supply Battalion; two-story brick buildings with white washed walls and red tile roof. 12x6 meters.
15. Storage; one-story brick building with white washed walls and red tile roof. 12x6 meters.
16. Apartment houses for the personnel staff of the airfield, about four to five two-story brick buildings.

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BEZMER AIRFIELD.

